



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Kansas City District

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News Release

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Missouri River Commercial Dredging Permits

KANSAS CITY, Mo - The Kansas City District Corps of Engineers is responsible for issuing permits for sand dredging of the Missouri River. Preliminary investigations of the Missouri River by the Corps of Engineers have revealed that the river bed is lowering. There are a number of potential factors causing the degradation and there is a correlation between sand dredging and degradation in certain reaches of the river. This bed degradation has impacted water intake structures, and could potentially undermine dikes, revetments and levees designed to support flood protection and navigation.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps of Engineers has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA concluded that there were no significant impacts (Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)) resulting from the proposed dredging operations.

The Corps of Engineers' FONSI is based on the following restrictions designed to minimize the potential contribution of dredging to bed degradation:

- Limiting and enforcing total annual sand extraction to the levels permitted in 2006;
- Reducing sand extraction in the Kansas City reach from 3.4M to 2.5M tons over the permit life (between 2007 and 2009);
- Additional dredging will be allowed below river mile 329 to compensate for the reduction in the Kansas City reach;
- Limiting total annual sand extraction within any 10 mile reach to 1.2M tons;
- Dredges will be required to monitor their position and operations using Global Positioning Systems (GPS);
- Requiring an annual hydrographic survey of each reach that is dredged to monitor bed degradation;
- Permits are limited to three years while the Corps of Engineers studies the problem and prepares an Environmental Impact Statement for the next permit reevaluation in 2009.

Additionally, the Corps is proposing an extensive study to determine the causes of Missouri River bed degradation, its potential consequences, and possible remedies.

For further information regarding this subject contact Cody Wheeler at (816) 389-3739, or the Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.

For the past 100 years, the Kansas City District has been providing flood damage reduction and related support to the heartland. For more information, call the Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.

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